

This syllabus has been provided as a reference tool for students considering this course. It has been modified to follow Senate regulations. Current students enrolled in any undergraduate course must obtain the most recent syllabus from their course instructor or from their course website. This is not the latest version.



Department of English & Writing Studies

American Literature Survey English 2308E (002) Fall/Winter 2013-14

Instructor: Prof. Kate Stanley

Date/Time: Monday 3:30pm-5:30pm
Wednesday 3:30pm-4:30pm

Location: University College 289

Prerequisites

At least 60% in 1.0 of English 1020E or 1022E or 1024E or 1035E or 1036E or both English 1027F/G and 1028F/G, or permission of the Department.

Antirequisite(s): English 2341E, 2342F/G, 2343F/G, 2344E, 2345F/G, 2346F/G and 3664E.

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Course Description

In this survey of American literature we will read personal narratives, essays, poems, speeches, and novels that span various genres, perspectives, and styles from the colonial period to the contemporary. Particular emphasis will be given to emerging languages of spiritual, psychological, national, and racial identity. At the same time, we will develop four skills essential to literary scholarship:

1. *Close Reading*: relating form to content; noticing how a given writer evokes a particular feeling, tone, and achieves other literary effects; examining how a work is structured and how the narrative voice positions itself in relation to its subject and its audience.
2. *Engaged Domitian*: remaining attentive and responsive to the work we are reading and the conversation it sparks; expressing ideas and questions to classmates (even when our thoughts or questions might still be in process).
3. *Clear and Persuasive Writing*: composing ideas into lucid prose that makes a cogent argument supported by textual evidence.
4. *Scholarly Research*: engaging with critical scholarship and exploring strategies for entering into ongoing critical discussions and debates around American literature.

Objectives:

Successful students who complete the course will be better able to:

- Discuss and contextualize the key concerns, themes, and formal features of an array representative works of American literature;
- Develop adept close readings into persuasive arguments;
- Write a researched essay, which engages with literary critical sources in the service of an original thesis.

Course Materials

Required Texts:

The Norton Anthology of American Literature, shorter 8th edition, eds. Nina Baymer et al.
Nathaniel Hawthorne, *The Scarlet Letter* (Dover Thrift)
M. Nourbese Philip, *Zong!* (Wesleyan UP)
Henry James, *Washington Square* (Oxford)
Mark Twain, *Pudd'nhead Wilson and Those Extraordinary Twins* (Modern Library Classics)
Nella Larsen, *Quicksand and Passing* (American Women Writers)
Coursepack

Methods of Evaluation

Participation	Cumulative over year	10%
Reading Quizzes	6 over year	2%
Reading Questions	Cumulative over year	2%
Sentences/Paragraphs	Sentences - DUE: Sept 17	1%
	Paragraph - DUE: Oct 7 (300 words)	
In-Class Report	10-minute presentation/One-page hand-out	5%
	DUE: See Sign-up on OWL	
Close Reading Assignment	DUE: Oct 21 (700 words)	5%
Short Essay	DRAFT: Nov 20; FINAL: Dec 4 (1500 words)	10%
Mid-Year Exam	Nov 11	10%
Prospectus & Bibliography	Feb 26	5%
Research Essay	DRAFT: Mar 12; FINAL: Mar 26 (2400 words)	15%
Final Exam	TBA	35%

A detailed outline of each assignment will be distributed on the first day of class

A student must receive a passing grade for both term work and the final examination in order to receive a passing grade for the course. This applies to all courses in all programs offered by the department. Students whose term and final exam grades average 50% or above, even though one of the two is a failure, shall receive a default grade of 48%. **Please note:** The department of English & Writing Studies does not release final grades. All undergraduate grade reports will be available online from the Office of the Registrar.

Students are fully responsible for looking at and being familiar with the information posted on the department website at <http://www.uwo.ca/english/undergraduate/info%20for%20students.html#grade>.

Timetable:

You are expected to have done the assigned reading prior to the first class in which a work is being discussed. Readings are subject to change. **Bring hard copies of assigned readings to class.** (R) = Find reading in course reader

I. ERRAND INTO THE WILDERNESS		
Mon. Sept 9	<i>Introduction: Puritans in America</i> John Winthrop, "Reasons to Be Considered for the ... Intended Plantation in New England" (R), "A Model of Christian Charity" Thomas Hooker - "The Soul's Preparation for Christ" (R) Thomas Shepherd, "The Sound Believer" (R)	
Wed. Sept 11	John Cotton - "Christ the Fountain of Life," "A Treatise of the Covenant of Grace" (R) William Bradford, from "Of Plymouth Plantation"	
Mon. Sept 16	"The Examination of Mrs. Anne Hutchinson" (R), "Anne Hutchinson's Creed" (R) Roger Williams, from "A Key Into the Language of America"; "Bloody Tenet of Persecution" John Cotton, "The Bloody Tenant, Washed and Made White in the Blood of the Lamb" (R)	
Wed. Sept 18	Mary Rowlandson, from <i>A Narrative of Captivity</i>	Sentence 1 Due (Set 15 by 6pm)
Mon. Sept 23	Rowlandson cont. Anne Bradstreet, "The Prologue," "Contemplations," "The Author to Her Book," "Before the Birth of One of Her Children," "To My Dear and Loving Husband," "Here Follows Some Verses upon the Burning of Our House," "To My Dear Children"	Lit Crit report 1
Wed. Sept 25	Nathaniel Hawthorne, <i>Scarlett Letter</i> (ch 1-6), "Mrs. Hutchinson" (R)	Sentence 2 Due (Sept 24 by 6pm)
Mon. Sept 30	Hawthorne cont. (read to end)	
II. THE GREAT AWAKENING & DECLARATION OF LITERARY INDEPENDENCE		
Wed. Oct 2	Jonathan Edwards, from <i>Personal Narrative</i> , "A Divine and Supernatural Light," "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God," from <i>Religious Affections</i> (R)	
Mon. Oct 7	Edwards cont.	Paragraph 1 Due
Wed. Oct 9	Ralph Waldo Emerson, selections from <i>Nature</i> , "The American Scholar," "Self-Reliance"	Lit Crit Report 2
Mon. Oct 14	THANKSGIVING	
Wed. Oct 16	Emerson cont. "The Poet," "Experience" (R), "Circles" (R)	
Mon. Oct 21	Henry Thoreau, from <i>Walden</i> , "Resistance to Civil Government"	Close Reading Assignment Lit Crit Report 3
Wed. Oct 23	Thoreau cont.	
Mon. Oct 28	Walt Whitman, from "Song of Myself," "Crossing Brooklyn Ferry"	Lit Crit Report 4
Wed. Oct 30	Whitman cont.	
Mon. Nov 4	Emily Dickinson, selected poems	Lit Crit Report 5

Wed. Nov 6	Dickinson cont.	
III. THE LITERATURE OF SLAVERY		
Mon. Nov 11	MID-YEAR EXAM	MID-YEAR EXAM
Wed. Nov 13	Phillis Wheatley, selected poems Frederick Douglass, from <i>Narrative of the Life of an American Slave</i>	
Mon. Nov 18	Harriet Beecher Stowe, from <i>Uncle Tom's Cabin</i> Lincoln, "House Divided Speech," "Fragment on Slavery," "Gettysburg Address," "Second Inaugural Address"	
Wed. Nov 20	Peer Editing Session	SHORT PAPER DRAFT
Mon. Nov 25	M. Nourbese Philip, <i>Zong!</i>	
Wed. Nov 27	Philip. Cont	
Mon. Dec 2	Melville, <i>Bartley the Scrivener</i>	Lit Crit Report 6
Wed. Dec 4	Melville cont.	SHORT PAPER FINAL
IV. REALISM & NATURALISM		
Mon. Jan 6	William Dean Howells, from "Novel-Writing and Novel-Reading" Henry James, from "The Art of Fiction" Frank Norris, "A Plea for Romantic Fiction" Theodore Dreiser, "True Art Speaks Plainly," from <i>Sister Carrie</i> Stephen Crane, "The Open Boat" (All in Norton, Vol. II)	
Wed. Jan 8	Realism and Naturalism cont.	
Mon. Jan 13	Henry James, <i>Washington Square</i>	Lit Crit Report 7
Wed. Jan 15	James cont.	
Mon. Jan 20	James cont.	
Wed. Jan 22	Mark Twain, <i>Pudd'nhead Wilson</i>	
Mon. Jan 27	Twain cont.	Lit Crit Report 8
Wed. Jan 29	Twain cont.	
V. PRAGMATISM		
Mon. Feb 3	William James, from <i>Pragmatism</i> (R)	
Wed. Feb 5	W.E.B. Du Bois, from <i>The Souls of Black Folks</i>	
Mon. Feb 10	James and Du Bois cont.	Lit Crit Report 9
Wed. Feb 12	Library Research Session	
Mon. Feb 17	Reading Week	
Wed. Feb. 19	Reading Week	
VI. MODERNISM		
Mon. Feb 24	<i>Literary Cubism</i> , Gertrude Stein, from <i>The Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas</i> (R), from <i>Tender Buttons</i> , "If I Told Him" (R), from <i>Lectures in America</i> (R), Ernest Hemingway, from <i>A Moveable Feast</i> (R)	Lit Crit Report 10
Wed. Feb 26	Stein cont	PROSPECTUS & BIBLIOGRAPHY

Mon. Mar 3	<i>Imagisme</i> Ezra Pound, "In a Station of the Metro," "Portrait d'une Femme," from "Cantos," "Imagisme" (R), "A Few Don'ts by an Imagiste" (R) H.D., "Oread," "Mid-Day," "Sea Rose," "Garden" (R) William Carlos Williams, "A Song of a Sort," "The Young Housewife," "Portrait of a Lady," "Spring and All," "The Red Wheelbarrow," "Landscape with the Fall of Icarus," "This Is Just to Say," Flossie Williams's reply to "This Is just to Say" (R), "The rose is obsolete" (R)	Lit Crit Report 11
Wed. Mar 5	Williams cont.	
VII. THE BEATS		
Mon. Mar 10	Wallace Stevens, "Anecdote of the Jar," "The Snow Man," "The Idea of Order in Key West," "Emperor of Ice Cream," "Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird," "The Man on the Dump" (R) Robert Frost, "Mowing," "Mending Wall," "The Wood-Pile," "The Death of the Hired Man," "After Apple-Picking," "The Road Not Taken"	Lit Crit Report 12
Wed. Mar 12	Peer Editing Session	RESEARCH ESSAY DRAFT
Mon. Mar 17	Frost cont. T.S. Eliot, "The Waste Land," "Tradition and the Individual Talent" (R)	Lit Crit Report 13
Wed. Mar 19	Eliot cont.	
Mon. Mar 24	Nella Larsen, <i>Quicksand</i>	
Wed. Mar 26	Larsen cont.	RESEARCH ESSAY FINAL
Mon Mar 31	Allen Ginsberg, "Howl," "Footnote to Howl," "A Supermarket in California" Jack Kerouac, "Belief & Technique for Modern Prose," "Essentials of Spontaneous Prose" (R) John Ashbery, "The Instruction Manual" (R)	Lit Crit Report 14
Wed. Apr 2	John Cage, "Writing through Howl" (R), "Lecture on Nothing" 4'33' (R)	
Mon. April 7	Wrap-up/ Review	
	Final Exam: Time and Date TBA	

Attendance:

Attendance is mandatory. However, I understand that things come up that may prevent you from being in class from time to time. You can miss five classes over the course of the year for any reason without penalty. After your fifth missed class, your total participation grade will be lowered by 1 point (out of a total of 10 points allotted to participation) for every missed class that is unexcused by the Academic Counseling office. That means if you miss eight classes your participation grade will be lowered by 3 points, which will reduce your final grade by 3%.

University policy states that if unexcused absences continue after a warning you risk disbarment from the exam (which means you will fail the course). An absence will be excused if you supply legitimate documentation to the Academic Counseling office.

Be on time to class. A pattern of being late will affect your participation grade. Please also plan ahead so that you do not have to leave the room while class is in session.

Participation & Preparation:

Attentive reading and reflective discussion are at the heart of this class. Your preparation and participation are essential.

Being prepared means: you have completed the reading, reflected on it, and have come to class with your book in hand, ready to discuss your thoughts and questions.

Make sure you bring hard copies of all readings to class. Close textual analysis- the primary skill we will practice in this class- depends on you having the reading assignment open in front of you.

Participation includes: active, thoughtful, and respectful engagement with lectures and class discussion. If you would prefer not to talk in front of the class I encourage you to come discuss your thoughts and questions with me during office hours (or make an appointment).

Reading:

Please read all assigned reading with care before each class. Mark important passages and effects in literary texts. In critical texts, underline the important ideas and arguments. Keep note of your thoughts and questions.

Please be prepared to share your thoughts and questions with your classmates. I may start class by asking you to point out an important passage from the assigned reading and explain why it seems significant.

Technology:

The use of computers and phones is not permitted in class. For special dispensation, please come and talk to me.

Email:

You can expect a response to your email within 48 hours. If you haven't received a response within two days, please resend your message. For substantive questions or discussion it's preferable to chat in person.

Late Assignment:

Assignments are due at the beginning of class unless otherwise noted. Late essays and assignments will be deducted by 2% per day or part-day (including weekends). Please submit late papers through the essay drop-box outside of UC 173.

University policy states that I cannot grant extensions for assignments worth 10% or more. In the case of documented illness or in emergency situations you can apply for extensions through the Academic Counseling office.

Formatting:

Written work should include your name, my name, class number, date. Include an accurate word count on the final page of all essay assignments. All essays must follow MLA style, *Consult Appendix for more information on MLA style and citation formatting.

Accommodation

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the Office of the Dean of the student's Faculty of registration, together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested. The UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness and further information regarding this policy can be found at http://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf.

Downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC):

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf

Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Plagiarism:

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence.

Plagiarism Checking:

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com <http://www.turnitin.com>.

Support Services

Registrarial Services <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

Student Support Services <https://student.uwo.ca/psp/heprdweb/?cmd=login>

Services provided by the USC <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

Student Development Centre <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to MentalHealth@Western: <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.